



Grandstand all go - finally

▶ THE HEADLINE SAYS IT ALL.

Construction should have commenced several months ago but we've been held up by a High Court judicial review of the consent process which allowed the grandstand construction to begin. We were frustrated by the delay because we felt there was no basis for the review. As it turned out, the judge agreed.

Gemco, a Havelock North construction company, won the tender and is moving into full swing now. Construction time is 12 months so the grandstand should be available in July 2010.

This is an important milestone for the Park. The grandstand design, especially its curve around the finish line, has a major wow factor. It also means we stand a good chance of hosting major events such as the December 2010 Secondary School athletic champs and the Colgate Games in January 2011.

We still have one more legal hurdle to navigate though. This time an Environment Court appeal in July. This appeal doesn't affect the grandstand but could impact other aspects of the Park so we're taking it seriously. We'll tell you about this in the July newsletter.

Lawrence Yule

Chair, Regional Sports Park Trust

Digger moves in for grandstand – From left, Gemco's Ashley Hartley, Tukituki MP Craig Foss, site foreman John Lock, HB Regional Council Chair Alan Dick, Project manager Derek Lawson, Sport HB CEO Colin Stone, Napier Mayor Barbara Arnott, Sports Park Trustee Rex Graham and Hastings Mayor Lawrence Yule. Photo courtesy of Hawke's Bay Today



A bit of history

▶ THERE HAS BEEN AMPLE MEDIA COVERAGE, INCLUDING LETTERS TO THE EDITOR IN RECENT MONTHS AND IT'S APPARENT THERE IS SOME CONFUSION OVER THE PARK'S DEVELOPMENT. BELOW IS A CHRONOLOGY OF EVENTS:

- ▶ **AUGUST 2003:** Hastings District Council investigates areas for large format retail and Nelson Park, which is in need of major refurbishment, is identified. Fourteen alternative sites for athletics investigated.
- ▶ **APRIL 2004:** Public consultation regarding the future of Nelson Park commences. Concept of Sports Park introduced by submitters.
- ▶ **JULY 2004:** Headline in Hawke's Bay Today reads "Sports Village may be answer to Park dilemma" (3 July). Council writes to sporting codes inviting them to participate in a working party to investigate site options for Nelson Park and a "district sporting centre". Several subsequent meetings occur.
- ▶ **MARCH 2005:** A further six location options investigated. Meanwhile Percival Rd site becomes available.
- ▶ **OCTOBER 2005:** Council purchases Percival Rd site having identified it as the most favourable option. Planning continues on Sports Park concept.
- ▶ **NOVEMBER 2006:** Public referendum asks for 'yes' or 'no' to proposal (abbreviated) of selling Nelson Park and re-locating athletics to Percival Rd site as part of a regional sport and recreation park. Public supports proposal

– 62% yes, 38% no. Voter turnout is higher than 2007 local body elections.

- ▶ **APRIL 2008:** Formal public consultation over sports park development. 67% of submissions support the proposal (some with conditions) 33% against. Construction of weather athletics track (AWAT) commences.
- ▶ **OCTOBER 2008:** Nick Willis "cuts ribbon" at new AWAT.



- ▶ **MAY 2009:** Construction on 2500 seat grandstand commences.

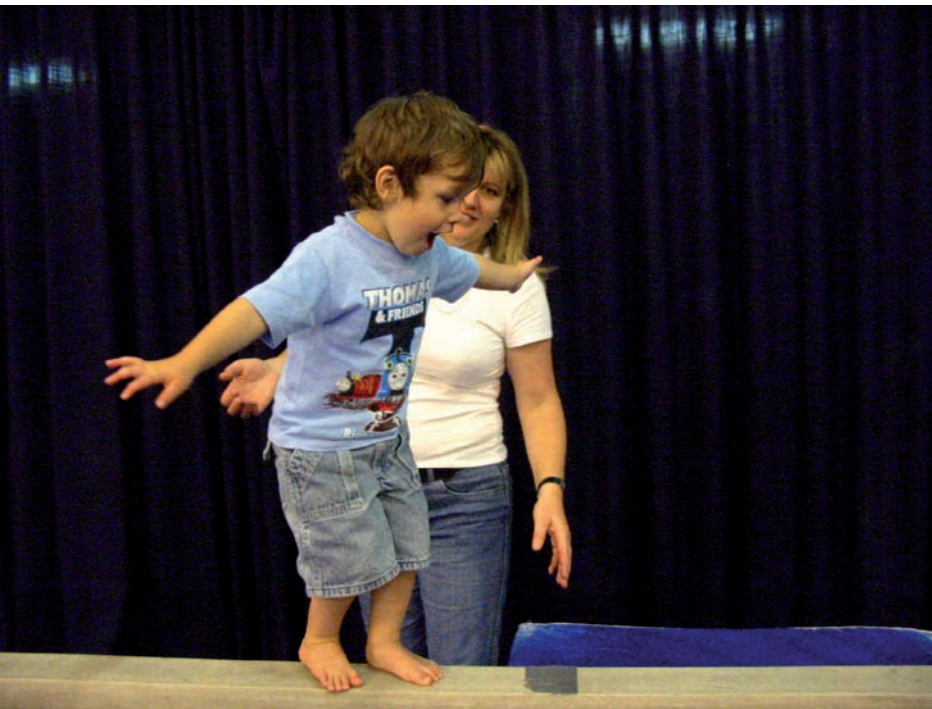


Signs have recently been erected on Pakowhai and Evenden Roads. They will shortly be on the Expressway.



Gymsports – much more than “Gym”

▶ “WHEN YOU TALK ABOUT GYMSPORTS MOST PEOPLE THINK ‘GYM’ IN A TRADITIONAL SENSE. BUT ACTUALLY, THAT’S ONLY ABOUT 15% OF WHAT GYMSPORTS IS ABOUT,” SAYS TAS EVANS, NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT MANAGER OF GYMSPORTS NEW ZEALAND.



Balance is one of seven fundamental movement skills taught in gymsports

GymSports is more accurately described as movement learning and its activities cater for all ages. It is especially important for pre-schoolers.

“75% of brain development through movement learning occurs before the age of 5 and it’s a good time to teach because children learn through play. We teach them the seven fundamental movement skills including locomotion, stopping, jumping, balance, spatial awareness and so on. As an adult this might sound basic but the patterns children learn at this age are excellent grounding for subsequent sport and arts (for example ballet) activities.

Teens and young adults at the Park will use the GymSport facility for sport and arts specific activity. A random list on any day might include exercises for netball, snowboarding, diving, ballet, hip hop and rugby. Activities continue through to retirement and beyond. For example, Tai Chi, a martial art, includes activities designed to prevent fall prevention among over 65s.

“We can maintain dignity in old age,” says Tas. “There’s no reason why someone in their 80s can’t easily tie their shoe laces. Physically it is possible, we just need to maintain the physical ability and fitness for it.”

A GymSports facility is part of the Central building at the Sports Park.

Nearly 2000 supporters

▶ MEMBERSHIP OF A SPORTS PARK SUPPORTERS CLUB, LAUNCHED BY SPORTS COMMENTATOR AND FORMER NEW ZEALAND CRICKETER IAN SMITH, IS APPROACHING 2000.

“We’ve got 1800 members now and I expect the numbers to top 2000 before long. I’m stoked by this. People will often jump on the bandwagon of something they’re against, but it’s harder to mobilise them for something they’re for. Well we’re proving that’s not the case with the Sports Park,” says Mr Smith.

Mr Smith said Sports Park supporters had mainly been signed up by community volunteers. “Very few people decline an invitation to join the club, especially when you get the opportunity to explain what the Park will be like.”

Mr Smith said while it was great to have so many members, he wanted a lot more. “It’s important people don’t sit back. Having thousands of supporters really helps when approaching sponsors. So those that want to join should go to www.sportspark.co.nz”



Q&A COLUMN

Q **Will the track charges change when the grandstand is built?**

A At present, while there is no grandstand, there is a nominal charge for groups or schools which use the track. For the 2010/11 season when the grandstand is in full use, the charges will increase. As an example a school using the athletics track is likely to pay between \$0.50 and \$1.50 per child depending on the time of year (summer or winter) and age of the child (primary or secondary).

